

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

~~selecting a producer of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;~~

~~comparing a production practice of the producer to pre-selected qualification criteria;~~

~~contracting~~ executing a contract with ~~[[the]]~~ a producer regarding implementation of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal to implement ~~[[the]]~~ a production practice and collect associated production practice data, wherein:

a term of said contract comprises the producer providing the production practice data,

the production practice data is collected according to a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, and

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills;

~~selecting a protocol sufficient for comparing the production practice to a baseline practice;~~

~~collecting production practice data regarding the producer responsive to the protocol;~~

~~warranting the production practice data by the producer;~~

~~confirming the received production practice data meets a pre-selected data standard;~~

converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors;

~~taking title to the effective environmental data by other than the producer;~~

~~modifying the environmental data to effective environmental data; crediting the producer for at least a portion of the effective environmental data; and~~

~~registering the effective environmental data for commercial use thereof.~~

converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units for a transferring thereof, each said emission reduction unit being adapted for use as at least one of an environmental offset, a credit, and an allowance.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the protocol includes at least one of guidance on measurement methodologies, indirect measurement criteria, modeling, baseline definitions and measurements, IPCC Global Warming Potential (GWP) conversion factors to enable the equivalent comparison of GHG carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e), and individual greenhouse gas performance factors.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected production practice data ~~collecting includes collecting~~ comprises available external information source data regarding the producer, and wherein the external information source data ~~includes~~ comprises at least one of site physical data, cropping maps, soil maps, watershed maps, topographical maps,

geographical reference data, site permit data, regulatory compliance, overhead photography, infrastructure placement, dimensional data, and commercial performance practices.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a term of the contract comprises the producer warranting the production practice ~~includes at least one of releasing legal liability for the data collecting, releasing biological security liability, and confirming the accuracy of the data collecting with respect to known production practices.~~

12. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein warranting the production practice comprises at least one of releasing legal liability for the data collecting ~~includes collecting on-site and confirming the accuracy of the data regarding the producer collecting with respect to known production practices.~~

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[12]]~~ 1, wherein the collected production data comprises on-site data regarding the producer and the on-site data collecting ~~includes comprises at least one of collecting~~

~~on-site data supplied by the producer,~~

~~forming on-site data collected by an assessment team for the on-site collecting,~~

~~forming on-site data confirmed by an assessment team for confirming the on-site data collecting,~~

~~entering the onsite data~~ on-site data entered into a pre-selected template, and

on-site data electronically ~~transmitting the production practice data~~ transmitted to a data center.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the template provides for input including at least one of questions relevant to the protocol, a commercial standard, environmental compliance, non-conformance, and business needs.

15. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the on-site data ~~entering~~ entered into ~~[[a]]~~ the template further ~~includes recording~~ comprises at least one of time and geographical reference information.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the pre-selected template ~~form~~ forms a part of at least one of an electronic data instrument, and wherein the electronic data instrument provides for data entry and transmission thereof.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected production practice data ~~collecting includes collecting~~ is commercial performance practice data ~~including comprising~~ at least one of production throughput~~[[,]]~~ and production capacity, ~~and animal-welfare practices.~~

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to converting the production practice data confirming includes to environmental data, said production practice data is confirmed by measuring at least one of the integrity and completeness of the production practice data, and testing data eligibility for processing the production data.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein data eligibility testing includes at least one of testing for non-conforming practices, reviewing contract terms for the producer, reviewing pending environmental actions for the producer, comparing production practices documented through the collection of data to the baseline practice, and 3rd party auditing of the production practice data.

25. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the production practice data reporting includes at least one of~~ further comprising comparing the production practice data to

standards of performance and identifying production practice compliance to said standards through labeling.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the labeling includes at least one of identifying a government approval, conferring a regulatory shield, identifying the source of conditions conferring a compliance, and identifying a source of environmental removal.

27. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~production practice data converting includes the production practice protocol having~~ pre-selected conversion factors are selected from the group including reducing, avoiding, or mitigating GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, and providing soil erosion credits, ~~and certifying animal welfare.~~

28-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising at least one of allocating wherein, prior to converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units,~~ a first portion of the ~~effective~~ environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, ~~committing and~~ a portion of the reserve pool for is committed to at least one of mitigating delivery risk, and ~~committing a portion of the reserve pool to mitigate~~ mitigating permanence risk.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising aggregating the production practice data from a plurality of producers, wherein the plurality of producers includes at least one common production practice.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~registering includes~~ environmental data is registered by at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the effective environmental data, recording the registering, designating ownership of the effective environmental data, assigning a unique identifier thereto, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

38. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein the unique identifier assigning includes at least one of a protocol related identifier, vintage, geographically referenced coordinates, specific emission reduction accounting, and encryption.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein the transaction monitoring includes at least one of monitoring a sale, transfer, exchange, and retirement of the environmental emission data.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~converting to an emission reduction unit includes~~ at least a portion of the environmental data comprises choosing a registry jurisdiction.

43-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising selling the emission reduction unit.

46. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 45, ~~further comprising establishing a pool for~~ wherein selling the emission reduction unit comprises pooling the unit with a plurality of emission reduction ~~units and accessing the~~ units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of ~~[[the]]~~ environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

47. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

48. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising transferring title of at least one of the emission reduction unit units for offsetting at least a portion of the environmental ~~emission~~ emissions.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1, further comprising allocating a plurality of emission reduction units from a plurality of producers of a controlling entity for offsetting environmental emissions of the controlling entity.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

~~selecting a producer of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;~~

~~comparing a production practice of the producer to pre-selected qualification criteria;~~

~~selecting a protocol sufficient for comparing the production practice to a baseline practice;~~

collecting production practice data ~~regarding the~~ associated with a production practice of a producer of at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal, said collecting being responsive to [[the]] a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, wherein

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills and ~~confirming the received production practice data meets a pre-selected data standard;~~ converting the production practice data is converted to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors; and ~~taking title to the~~ environmental data by is transferred to an entity other than the producer.

53-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, ~~further comprising at least one of allocating wherein~~ a first portion of the ~~effective~~ environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, ~~committing~~ a portion of the reserve pool is committed for mitigating delivery risk, and ~~committing~~ a portion of the reserve pool is committed to mitigate permanence risk.

57. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 56, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 52, ~~further comprising establishing a pool for~~ wherein the environmental data is converted to at least one environmental reduction unit and pooled with a plurality of emission reduction units ~~and accessing the units, said pool being adapted to be accessed~~ during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of [[the]] environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

60. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

61. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[53]] 52, wherein the environmental data is converted to an emission reduction unit and further comprising transferring title of the emission reduction unit for offsetting at least a portion of an environmental emission.

62. (Currently amended) A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

~~selecting a production practice yielding at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;~~

~~selecting a protocol sufficient for comparing the production practice to a baseline practice;~~

~~collecting production practice data regarding the production practice responsive to the protocol;~~

converting [[the]] production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors; wherein,

said production practice data relates to a production practice and is collected, responsive to a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, and

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills {Para 0052, claim 3; and

registering at least a portion of the environmental data for commercial use thereof.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 62, wherein the collected production practice data ~~collecting includes~~ is collecting commercial performance practice data ~~including comprising~~ at least one of production throughput[[,]] and production capacity, ~~and animal welfare practices.~~

65-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 62, ~~wherein the production practice data reporting includes at least one of~~ further comprising comparing the production practice data to standards of performance and identifying production practice compliance to said standards through labeling.

68. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 66, wherein the labeling includes at least one of identifying a government approval, conferring a regulatory shield, identifying the source of conditions conferring a compliance, and identifying a source of environmental removal.

69-70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 62, ~~further comprising at least one of allocating wherein, prior to converting the production practice data to environmental data,~~ a first portion of the environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, ~~committing and~~ a portion of the reserve pool [[for]] is committed to at least one of mitigating delivery risk, and ~~committing a portion of the reserve pool to mitigate~~ mitigating permanence risk.

72. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 71, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

73. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 62 wherein the registering ~~includes~~ comprises at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the environmental data, recording

the registering, designating ownership of the environmental data, assigning a unique identifier thereto, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

74. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 73, wherein the unique identifier assigning includes at least one of a protocol related identifier, vintage, geographically referenced coordinates, specific emission reduction accounting, and encryption.

75. (Canceled)

76. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 73, wherein the transaction monitoring includes at least one of monitoring a sale, transfer, exchange, and retirement of the environmental emission data.

77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[77]]~~ 62, further comprising converting the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units and selling at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units.

79. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 78, further comprising establishing a pool of wherein selling at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units comprises pooling said portion with a plurality of emission reduction units and accessing the units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of ~~[[the]]~~ environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

80. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 79, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

81-83. (Canceled)

84. (Currently amended) A method of processing environmental emissions, the method comprising:

~~selecting a plurality of producers having production practices yielding at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;~~

~~selecting at least one protocol sufficient for comparing each of the production practices to a baseline practice;~~

collecting production practice data ~~regarding the~~ associated with production practices of a plurality of producers, said production practices yielding at least one of environmental emissions mitigation and environmental emissions removal, said collecting being responsive to [[the]] a selected protocol, said selected protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal associated with the production practice of the producer compared to a baseline practice, wherein ;

the production practice data is related to production operations in at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, waste management, and waste landfills {Para 0052, claim 3;

~~confirming the production practice data meets a pre-selected data standard;~~

converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors; and

registering the ~~effective~~ environmental data for commercial use thereof.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 84, wherein the ~~collecting comprising~~ collected production practice data includes on-site data ~~collecting including comprising~~ at least one of ~~collecting~~

on-site data supplied by the producer,

~~forming~~ on-site data collected by an assessment team ~~for the on-site collecting,~~

~~forming~~ on-site data confirmed by an assessment team ~~for confirming the on-site data~~ ~~collecting,~~

~~entering the onsite data~~ on-site data entered into a pre-selected template, and

on-site data electronically ~~transmitting the production practice data~~ transmitted to a data center.

87. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 86, wherein the template provides for input including at least one of questions relevant to the protocol, a commercial standard, environmental compliance, non-conformance, and business needs.

88-93. (Canceled)

94. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 84, ~~further comprising at least one of~~ allocating wherein, prior to converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units, a first portion of the ~~effective~~ environmental data is allocated to a reserve pool, ~~committing and~~ a portion of the reserve pool ~~for~~ is committed to at least one of mitigating delivery risk, and ~~committing a portion of the reserve pool to mitigate~~ mitigating permanence risk.

95. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 94, wherein the portion of the reserve pool includes at least one of an escrow pool and a leveraged instrument pool for backing a commercial insurance policy.

96. (Canceled)

97. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 84 wherein the registering ~~includes~~ comprises at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the effective environmental data, recording the registering, designating ownership of the effective environmental data, assigning a unique identifier thereto, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

98. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 97, wherein the unique identifier assigning includes at least one of a protocol related identifier, vintage, geographically referenced coordinates, specific emission reduction accounting, and encryption.

99. (Canceled)

100. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 84, further comprising establishing a pool of wherein the environmental data and accessing the is converted to at least one environmental reduction unit and pooled with a plurality of emission reduction units, said pool being adapted to be accessed during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

101. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 100, wherein the point of sale event is selected from a group including at least one of an airline ticket, fuel at pump, coal for heating or electricity generation, and purchase of automobile.

102. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 84, further comprising transferring title of the environmental data for offsetting at least a portion of the environmental emissions.